Remarks/Arguments:

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed May 26, 2005.

Claims 24-39 and 63-76 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24-39 and 63-76.

The Present Invention

As claimed the present invention includes a method and system for "transparently" accessing multiple databases. A base user java bean is provided that is adapted to work through a server to an internal database. The base user java bean provides a "transparent" interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated from the internal database. The user java bean is then extended such that the extended user java bean further provides a "transparent" interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated from at least one external database. Transparency is defined in the specification of the patent application at page 7, paragraph 29: "As used herein, transparency generally refers to the fact that a user or application can make a call or request without care as to where the data is stored or what naming convention the data may use. If the data is in a legacy database instead of a personalization database, the UUP [unified user profile] will automatically process the request without the user or application ever needing to know about the location or name."

In Contrast to the Present Invention Sutcliffe Relies on Data Migration Schemes and Therefore Actually Teaches Away from the Present Invention

Applicants respectfully submit that this invention is not taught by Sutcliffe (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,105). The most that can be said for Sutcliffe is that the PON database taught therein receives data from external databases. Rather than relying on a UUP to provide transparent data access to these external databases using an extended java

bean, however, Sutcliffe relies on specific data migration schemes of the sort that the present invention is directed to avoid: "One primary advantage of the UUP as compared to other server solutions is that the UUP requires no database scheme updates or data migration within a data management system . . . [Instead the UUP] is created by writing an extension EJB, rather than by updating database tables, or running data migration scripts. Servers of the prior art often require the updating of the user database table schema for additional user properties." (Specification Page 5, paragraph 22). Sutcliffe is an example of the "servers of the prior art" that are specifically contrasted above with the present invention.

In Sutcliffe "the server processor receives information from the first user information database via the local area network and updates the server information database which corresponds to a personals online (PON) system database to thus allow users accessing the system via public networks to retrieve information entered into databases via newspapers or other print media." (Col. 2, ll. 11-17). Thus, Sutcliffe relies primarily on various data migration schemes of the sort that the present invention seeks to avoid. See Sutcliffe (col. 5, ll. 56-64), (col. 6, ll. 16-20), (col. 9, ll. 57-67), (col. 10, ll. 45-55). In general "[s]erver processor 102 periodically examines directories in the private network for files which require processing such as voice greeting files, mailbox request files, stamp files or status report files. If the server processor 102 determines that such files exists, then the processor 102 takes predetermined action depending on the type of file which is found. . . . For storage in PON database 104 it may be necessary to convert the file from the first format to a second different format and to rename the file. . . . [R]enaming and file reformatting facilitates processing of the information in PON database 104." (col. 10, ln. 60 – col. 11, ln. 11). See also Figure 5 (col. 17, ll. 54 –55) ("[A]s shown in step 194, PON server imports the file from the network server to the PON database.") and Figure 6 (col. 18, ll. 1-2) ("The file is then copied from the network server to the PON server as shown in step 206.").

Accordingly, rather than teaching the transparent data access using java beans claimed in the present invention, Sutcliffe relies on a variety of data migration schemes and actually teaches away from the present invention. The Examiner's rejection of all claims is respectfully traversed.

Because Sutcliffe Does Not Teach the Use of Java Beans at All, It Does Not Teach the Additional Java Bean Programming Details Recited in Claims 31-32, 36-38, 66-67, and 75

Sutcliffe does not teach the use of java beans at all and so it does not teach the additional implementation details claimed in claims 31-32, 36-38, 66-68, and 75 which recite the use by the java bean of a property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of the data and some of which further recite that the implicit and explicit properties include getter and setter properties. These claims should be allowed not only for all the reasons explained above, then, but also for this further reason.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/2/05

By: Eric M. Hoover
Eric Hoover
Reg. No. 37,355

Customer No. 23910
FLIESLER MEYER LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-4156
Telephone: (415) 362-3800